

## Use of Reasonable Force

The district will maintain a safe learning environment while treating all students with dignity and respect. All students in the district will remain free from the unreasonable use of force.

District staff members may use reasonable force, isolation or restraint to maintain order or to prevent a student from harming him/herself, other students and school staff members or property.

Physical force is reasonable when needed to prevent or minimize imminent bodily injury or substantial or great bodily harm to self or others. If de-escalation interventions have failed or are inappropriate, reasonable physical force may be used to protect district property.

Use of a restraint device or chemical spray is reasonable only under the following conditions and only when used by authorized and trained district staff after de-escalation interventions have failed or are inappropriate:

- A. If the student's behavior poses a threat of imminent bodily injury or substantial or great harm to self or others; or
- B. To prevent property damage.

Physical force, restraint devices, chemical spray or less than lethal devices will not be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

This policy is not intended to prevent or limit the use of reasonable force or restraint as necessary with other adults or youth from outside the school as allowed by law.

The superintendent or designee will annually report to the board on the use of force. The superintendent or designee will develop procedures to implement this policy.

Cross References:	Policy 2161	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
	Policy 2162	Education of Students With Disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
	Policy 3247	Isolation and Restraint of Students With IEPs and Section 504 Plans
Legal References:	RCW 9A.16.020	Use of Force — When lawful
	RCW 9A.16.100	Use of Force on Children — Policy — Actions presumed unreasonable
	RCW 28A.150.300	Corporal Punishment Prohibited
	Chapter 392-400-235	Discipline — Conditions and limitations

Management Resources:

*Policy and Legal News*, December 2013

WSSDA issues new policy specific to isolation and restraint of students with IEPs and Section 504 plans

*Policy and Legal News*, July 2013

Use of Reasonable Force Policy retitled, revised to include new reporting requirement pursuant to ESSB 1688

*Policy News*, December 2008

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